

Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services

May 2015



Monthly Highlights:

National Military Appreciation Month
National Youth Traffic Safety Month



10 MAY Mother's Day
16 MAY Armed Forces Day
25 MAY Memorial Day

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CYSS CONNECTIONS

Military Kids Connect



Military youth live in a world of constant change and experience many challenges including multiple deployments of Family members and frequent moves to new schools and neighborhoods. Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an interactive website for military youth to help with the unique needs that are part of the military lifestyle. MKC offers a well designed

and easy to use online community for military children age 6-17 years old. This interactive web page provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children. MKC has online sections for kids ages 6-8, tweens ages 9-12, and teens ages 13-17. Each online environment offers informative activities, fun games, helpful videos, and resources that are categorized by age group. These online modules reinforce understanding, resilience, and coping skills for military children. In addition, there are helpful links and resources designed specifically for teachers and parents/caregivers. Youth can share their ideas, experiences, and suggestions with other military children through the new feature of a discussion board. This allows youth to connect with other military children and to know they are not alone in dealing with the stressors of military life.



To learn more about Military Kids Connect, view a video as AR youth share their personal stories relating to deployment.

Source: Military Kids Connect, <http://militarykidsconnect.dcoe.mil/>



This information has been provided by Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services.
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CYSS Mission: To support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between military mission requirements and parental responsibilities



4-H Military Partnerships: Supporting Military Youth through Collaborations

4-H Military Partnerships create opportunities and provide support to military connected youth whether they live on or near an installation, in a community, or on an overseas installation. 4-H clubs and opportunities provide consistency in belonging and an opportunity to develop life skills through a positive youth development framework.



4-H Military Partnerships represent a collaboration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Military Community and Family Policy, Army Child, Youth and School Services, Air Force Child and Youth Programs, Navy Child and Youth Programs, the Coast Guard, and the National Guard Bureau. The 4-H Military Partnerships support military youth through collaboration with military partners providing 4-H Clubs, afterschool programs, [camps](#), activities, and events on military installations and in local communities.

Military youth have unique issues including frequent relocations, adjusting to new communities and schools, separation anxiety regarding the safety of a deployed parent, and increased responsibilities at home especially when a parent is deployed. 4-H provides a safe, educational supportive environment for the youth to come to after school when they are more likely to make poor choices or follow the crowd. It can also empower youth to be able to stand up to bullies and others that may be trying to get them to participate in risky behaviors.



The 4-H Program is built upon four Essential Elements ensuring that youth feel a sense of belonging in a safe environment, develop independence in both group and individual work, share with others in the community through generosity, and develop a sense of mastery that continues throughout life as they practice and share what they have learned with others. These programs have served youth in all military branches and components. These programs educate the public about the unique challenges of military youth; recruit volunteers; train educators, volunteers, and military youth program staff on the impact of deployment and 4-H curriculum.

As military families move frequently and experience the difficulties surrounding deployment and reintegration, 4-H provides predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment for military connected children and youth. 4-H provides a support network delivering recreational, social and providing quality developmental programs so military members can pursue their critical assignments.

To find and enroll in a 4-H club, [visit http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/](http://4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/)

Compiled by Juanita Warren, Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC



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Army Reserve Family Programs CYSS offered many events in April, the Month of the Military Child. These events and art contests were designed to recognize and applaud Families and their children for the sacrifices they make in supporting America's Army.

April 15th is recognized as Purple Up! for Military Kids Day. Staff and youth wore purple in support of Military children. Purple symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is a combination of Army green, Marine red, Coast Guard navy and Air Force blue.



Puletasi, American Samoa,
"My Rainbow" 9th MSC



Alexis, Vermont,
"Father Daughter Embrace" 316th ESC



Youth Human Knot,
Teambuilding Exercise,
USARC Yellow Ribbon Event 1 and 2



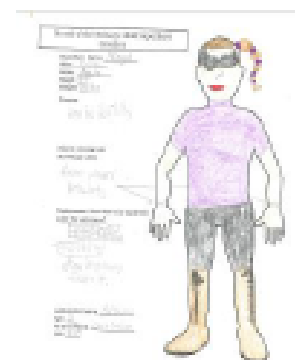
Khaliyah, Georgia,
"Army Strong"
335th ESC



Pioneer Days,
Atlanta Outdoor
Classroom,
335th ESC



Fitness with a Twist, Youth Enrichment Program
108th TC



Autumn, Indiana
"Invisible Megan" 310th ESC



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Command/Unit Updates

THE SPOTLIGHT



Several 200th MP youth gave some insight into military life from their perspective during the "Their Lives, Their Stories" campaign. The following articles are a few of their contributions.

April 2015

Month of the Military Child

Their Lives, Their Stories

All people are different. We all come from diverse backgrounds and have different experiences that form who we are. Children who have parents in the military, although still different, all have similar experiences that help us grow as individuals. These experiences include: moving, making friends, dealing with a parent's deployments, staying organized, and always being ready for the next move. These experiences are difficult, but military kids are able to handle these things after doing them so often. What you learn from these experiences doesn't define who you are; they simply give you the confidence to let your true personality shine through.

One thing you do often as a military kid is move. Moving is difficult, even for the most experienced military kid, and I should know, I've moved six times! Military kids can adjust to just about any location around the world and have a wealth of knowledge because of these moves. I have lived in almost every corner of the United States. When you move around so often, you get used to traveling, and get to see just how beautiful our country and this world is. It's something I have truly come to enjoy. Moving into a new school and town can be hard, but it has become enjoyable for me because I know exactly what to do and feel excited about a chance to make new friends. Moving has helped shape who I am, because I have learned about so many different places and have developed ways to make friends more easily.

-Neil, 18 years old, Maryland

My life as a military child is different now. When I was on base nobody really judged me. When my father retired from the military he said we could not live on base, and we would be moving to where my grandmother lives. My first time living off base and going to school off base was difficult because I lived nowhere near any of my friends at school and I was judged more than I hoped, mostly by the stuff I wore. So I saved up for a long time and got some new shoes and I discovered this thing called shoe game and ever since I've only bought one thing that was not shoes. Now shoe game helps me feel better and fit in better, because I like it when people compliment my shoes. Retired military life is not that bad once you make some friends.

-Niles, 12 years old, Maryland

If your youth would like to send a short story about their experiences, contact Meghan Norris, Contractor: Odyssey-TCl, or Prince Amartey, Contractor: Odyssey-TCl. See page 7 for contact information



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Community Events MAY 2015

Please note that events listed in this newsletter, with the exception of AR CYSS events, are not endorsed by the Army Reserve and are provided only for community awareness.

What's Happening in Your Neck of the Woods...

Name of Event	State	Dates	Age Group	POC/Website
Final Frontier Day Camp	UT	1-5 June	8-12	Dave Francis, 435-760-4109 dave.francis@usu.edu 4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/
Home Front Hero Deployment Camp	DE	5-7 June	8-12	Rhonda Martell 302-730-4000 rhondam@udel.edu 4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/
Teen Wilderness Adventure Camp - Residential	VA	21-25 June	13-17	Joe Duerksen 804-236-7866 joe.m.duerksen.ctr@mail.mil 4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/
Military Makers Day Camp	UT	22-25 June	10-14	Dave Francis, 435-760-4109 dave.francis@usu.edu 4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/
DOD Career Pathfinders Camp	AZ	23-26 June	13-18	Teresa Noon 520-626-9085 tmnoon@email.arizona.edu 4-hmilitarypartnerships.org/dod-camps/2015-camps/2015_youth_camps/

YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CHECKING THE FOLLOWING LINKS REGULARLY FOR EVENTS IN YOUR AREA:

CYSS Events: www.arfp.org/cyssstatecamps.php

4-H: www.4-h.org

YMCA: www.ymca.net/



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Resources and Web Links

For Deployed, AGR, Wounded, Ill, Injured or Fallen Soldiers



Army Fee Assistance will be provided by General Services Administration (GSA) working with those who serve in the military find and afford child care that suits their unique needs. Through the fee assistance program, families are eligible to receive monthly fee assistance to help offset the cost of child care in their communities. For more information visit, http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal.

Army Respite Care The Army Respite Child Care will provide the family between 8 to 16 hours of hourly child care each month for each of the eligible children. Parents can use this time to run errands, attend appointments, or just take some well-deserved time out for themselves. The Army recognizes the challenges and extraordinary stress the parents and their families may be experiencing, and wants to help support them in meeting their unique child care needs. Eligibility: Deployed; Temporary Change of Station; Unaccompanied Permanent Change of Station; Temporary Duty; Wounded, Ill or Injured Status; Survivors of Fallen Warriors.



Our Military Kids provides grants for K-12 youth dependents of overseas deployed National Guard and Reserve personnel or severely injured Service Members. Visit www.ourmilitarykids.org/

For Various Duty Statuses



Army Reserve Family Programs provides programs, training, services, resources, youth programming and camping opportunities to Army Reserve Families. Visit www.arfp.org/



Military OneSource provides an online library, web resources, and non-medical counseling to Military Families. Visit: www.militaryonesource.mil/



Military Kids Connect (MKC) is an online community of military children (ages 6-17 yr. olds) that provides access to age-appropriate resources to support children from pre-deployment, through a parent's or caregiver's return. Visit: <http://militarykidsconnect.t2.health.mil>



Zero to Three has information and resources for parents of infants and toddlers. A new phone app, Babies on the HomeFront, provides Military and veteran parents with strategies for enhancing everyday moments with their child. Visit: <http://zerotothree.org/>



Military Child Education Coalition Military (MCEC) is a non-profit organization focusing on academic and school-related needs of military-connected youth. Visit: www.militarychild.org



National Military Family Association has programs that provide Military Families with camps, family retreats, and healing adventures during deployment, reintegration, and coming together after an injury. Visit <http://www.militaryfamily.org/>



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The mission of Army Reserve Child, Youth & School Services is to support readiness and quality of life by reducing the conflict between Military Mission requirements and parental responsibilities.



Family Programs Director (Acting)

Mrs. Andrea Daniels, PhD
200 MPCOM
Office: 301-677-1865
BB: 404-834.5057
Email: Andrea.D.Daniels.civ@mail.mil

Contact **Dr. Daniels** for assistance with:

- Family Support Services
- Family Programs Training



Youth Services Specialist (YSS)

Prince Amarte
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
200 MPCOM (MD, RI & MA)
Phone: 301-677-1579
Email: Prince.Amarte.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Mr. Amarte** for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council



Youth Services Specialist (YSS)

Meghan Norris
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200 MPCOM (MD, NH & VT)
Phone: 301-677-1494
Email: Meghan.B.Norris.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Ms. Norris** for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Weekend Events and Activities
- Child Care Resources
- Youth Programming
- Teen Council



School Services Specialist (SSS) - Interim

Ms. Ty Beck
Contractor: Odyssey-TCI JV, LLC
316th ESC (PA & VT)
99 Soldiers Lane
Coraopolis, PA 15108-2550
Phone: 412-604-8202
Email: tykisha.m.beck.ctr@mail.mil

Contact **Ms. Beck** for assistance with:

- Command/Unit Support
- Educational Events and Activities
- Scholarship Information
- College Prep
- Academic /Tutoring Resources
- School Support Services



Stay connected with the 200th MP Command!



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